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distribution of wealth.¹ Finally we have a very active effort to advance statistical science by gathering international statistics and making them comparable with one another.² It is only in this way that statistics can ever discover social laws ; and it is to be hoped that the new Statistical Institute will accomplish in this direction what the old statistical congresses aspired but failed to do.

The modern conception of statistical science is, therefore, that it is a branch of social science employing a particular method. This method is to be used with scientific care and subjected to the most rigorous analysis and criticism. It is then to be applied to the phenomena of human life so as to give us knowledge of society and of social laws. Observations are to begin in single countries and for particular purposes, but are then to be made international and extended to all domains of social life capable of observation in this way. The mass of knowledge thus obtained, the truths disclosed by this knowledge and the scientific appreciation of the method will constitute a statistical science.

RICHMOND M. SMITH.

Les Salaires au XIX^e Siècle. Par ÉMILE CHEVALLIER. Paris, Arthur Rousseau, 1887.

This work of 300 pages received the prize of 2500 francs in 1886 from the French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences as the best work submitted on wages, the subject assigned for the competition. It impresses the reviewer, after careful reading, as the ablest work on the subject since Walker's *Wages Question*.

The first half of the book is devoted to a close study of a vast mass of facts bearing on the height of wages and cost of living in the last three centuries, but particularly since 1820, in France, Germany, England, the United States, and Australia. The figures in most cases are not new ; but as regards France, M. Chevallier presents from his own

¹ See in the Paris volume: Fournier de Flaix, L'accroissement de la richesse depuis 1789 en France, en Angleterre et en d'autres Etats; Leemans, Quelques progrès en Belgique; Juglar, Des retours périodiques des crises commerciales et de leurs liquidations. In the *Bulletin*, see: Foville, La statistique de la division de la propriété en France et dans la Grande-Bretagne; Sbrojavacca, Sul valore della proprietà fondiaria rustica e sulla gravanza delle imposte che la colpiscono in alcuni Stati; Rauchberg, Die Entwicklung des Clearing-Verkehrs.

² See in Jubilee volume: Jeans, on Uniformity of Statistics; Körösi, on the Unification of Census Record Tables; Körösi, Mémoire relativement aux décisions des Congrès Internationaux de Statistique, concernant le questionnaire international des recensements. In the *Bulletin* see: Rawson, International Statistics, illustrated by vital statistics of Europe and of some of the United States of America. Many of the papers already cited are international in character.

studies many new and interesting tables. It appears from these, — the accuracy of which we have no means at hand for testing, but which are doubtless in the main correct, — that wages in France have more than doubled during the present century and have increased with especial rapidity since 1850, while the cost of living as a whole is not now much greater for the same quality of food, clothing and lodging than in 1800 or 1820. Rents have increased, though not at an equal pace with wages; the price of clothing has diminished; and that of food has not materially changed. A great though less rapid increase of real wages is noted in the other countries considered.

One of the most interesting facts brought out in these tables is the great levelling up of wages. The rewards of the more poorly paid occupations have increased in a far greater ratio, since 1820, than those of the better paid. The wages of women have increased faster than those of men; and the average earnings of the poorly paid workmen of Spain, France and Germany have grown faster than those of the better paid laborers of the United States.

M. Chevallier shows that in France, as elsewhere, the wage earners have employed this gain in three ways: to improve the quality of their food, lodging and clothing; to satisfy new needs; and to invest in various institutions for savings, such as banks and insurance companies. Since 1835 the number of depositors in the French savings banks has increased from one in two hundred and fifty inhabitants to one in eight, and the amount of deposits from 4,704,452 francs to 2,025,280,640 francs.

The last half of *Les Salaires* is devoted to a study of the causes that influence wages. It is recognized that it is not sufficient to fall back upon the old formula of demand and supply; that it is necessary to determine what causes affect the demand and what the supply, and to consider the potent disturbing influence of custom and law. Our author believes that wages have as a maximum the full product of the labor after deduction of necessary expenses, and as a minimum the amount needed to support the workmen in that standard of comfort to which they have become habituated. Labor organizations and the demands common to the mass of the workmen assist in raising wages above this minimum. But, after all, the greatest rise in wages in general comes from the increased productivity of work, whether that increase be due to better machinery or to more skilful workmen. So, for example, farm labor earns more in summer, when it is most productive; whereas, if Lassalle were right, it would receive more in winter when the bodily needs, the expenses of living, are greater. There are however so many exceptions to the above view — that better machinery will raise wages — that this part of M. Chevallier's treatise seems weaker than the rest.

The author also holds that the mere increase in the general riches of a country tends to raise wages; e.g. servants are paid more than a generation ago. He considers this in part due to democracy, which has rendered personal service offensive to a large part of our wage earners.

The greatest weakness of the book is the very inadequate treatment of labor organizations. Their widespread systems of out-of-work, accident, sick, travelling, death, loss-of-tools and other benefits, aside from the strike fund, are scarcely noticed; and our author seems entirely ignorant of the great economic justifications of the principle (not the abuses) of trades unions contained in Brentano's *Arbeitsverhältnisse*.

M. Chevallier believes with Bastiat and Edward Atkinson that wages are not only increasing absolutely, but relatively to the rewards of capital; but gives no facts in proof of this very doubtful assertion. Taking our census returns of capital invested in manufactures for what they may be worth, we find that according to them the total amount spent for wages increased 22.2 per cent from 1870 to 1880, while the capital employed increased 31.7 per cent; so that, even if the profits fell from 10 to 9½ per cent, the aggregate returns from capital increased 25.1 per cent or 2.9 more than wages.

But despite these defects, M. Chevallier has presented his results lucidly and ably; and his work is of importance to all students of the labor problem.

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

Emigration and Immigration: Reports of the Consular Officers of the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1887. — 8vo, iv, 748 pp.

Statistica della emigrazione italiana per gli anni 1884 e 1885 con notizie di legislazione e statistica comparata. Roma, Tipographia della camera dei deputati, 1886. — 8vo, xlviii, 476, 76, lxxxiv pp.

Copy of Memorandum on the Immigration of Foreigners into the United Kingdom, with Appendix containing Statistical Tables and other Information. Board of Trade, April, 1887. London, Hansard and Son. — Folio, 16 pp.

The clamor which has arisen during the last year or two on the part of the laboring men of this country for restriction of immigration has led the Department of State to collect reports from consuls all over the world in regard to this subject. These reports are supplemented by various tables and charts showing the number of immigrants since 1820, their nationality, sex, age, and occupation. The whole is introduced with a valuable commentary by Mr. Worthington C. Ford, the statistician of the department.